

CLAIMS:

1. A method of identifying the type of discharge lamp, characterized in that it comprises the steps of applying an amplitude-modulated control current to a discharge lamp, detecting the peak value of the lamp voltage at a rising edge of the envelope of the modulated control current, and comparing the detected peak value with previously recorded peak values for different lamp types, and assigning the detected peak value to a lamp type on the basis of said comparison.
2. A device for carrying out the method as claimed in claim 1, which comprises means for supplying a control current to a discharge lamp, is characterized by the presence of means for amplitude-modulating the control current to the lamp, peak detection means for detecting the peak voltage across the lamp at a rising edge of the envelope of the amplitude-modulated control current, recording means for recording peak voltages associated with lamp types and means for comparing the measured peak voltage with the recorded peak voltages and supplying a lamp type-indicating signal on the basis of said comparison.
3. A device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the means for supplying a control current to the lamp are formed by a source of a comparatively high-frequency square-wave voltage supplying, via a series-resonance chain, a corresponding control current to the lamp, characterized in that means are present for square-wave frequency modulating said comparatively high-frequency square-wave voltage.
4. A device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the means for supplying a control current to the lamp are formed by a source of a comparatively high-frequency square-wave voltage supplying, via a series-resistance chain, a corresponding control current to the lamp, characterized in that means are present for square-wave pulse width modulating said comparatively high-frequency square-wave voltage.
5. A device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the means for supplying a control current to the lamp are formed by a source of a comparatively high-frequency square-wave

voltage supplying, via a series-resonance chain, a corresponding control current to the lamp, and wherein said source of a comparatively high-frequency square-wave voltage is fed with a direct voltage from an AC/DC converter, characterized in that means are present for square-wave amplitude-modulating the direct voltage supplied to said source of a comparatively

5 high-frequency square-wave voltage.